



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, April 28, 2006 -- 06-021

District: District 2 - Redding

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Road work started on US 395 in Lassen County

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 has begun work on two safety projects on US Route 395 in Lassen County. Project locations are near Hallelujah Junction, north of State Route (SR) 70 to 4.9 miles south of Red Rock Road and near Doyle from north of Willow Ranch Creek to south of the North Herlong access road.

The \$5 million Hallelujah Junction project was awarded to Meyers Earthwork of Redding and will widen shoulders and add rumble strips along a 3.1-mile area of US 395. Up to 10-minute delays are expected. Work will be conducted Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Construction is estimated to take up to four months with completion expected in August.

The second project near Herlong is a \$8.7 million project to widen shoulders and add rumble strips along 5.9 miles of US 395, both northbound and southbound. Improvements will also be made to turn pockets and road connections. A four-foot buffer strip with rumble strips will be installed in the passing lanes locations between opposing directions of travel. This will help reduce cross over type accidents within the passing lane areas. The contractor for this project is Baldwin Construction of Chico. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Motorist can expect one-way traffic control with up to ten-minute delays. Completion of this project is expected this fall.

Both projects will help reduce run-off-the-road accidents by increasing the shoulder width, the placement of rumble strips and increasing of the clear recovery zone width. Rumble strips help to alert drivers when the vehicle drifts to the shoulder. The clear recovery zone is defined as an area adjacent to the travel way where errant vehicles have room to recover if they have left the roadway.

Motorists are reminded to "Slow for the Cone Zone" and drive with caution when in the construction area. For more information on either of these projects please call 530-225-3260.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm